



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FORMER IRS EMPLOYEE, OTHERS INDICTED FOR STEALING TAXPAYERS' PAYMENTS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a former employee of the Internal Revenue Service, along with her brother and a third co-defendant, were indicted by a federal grand jury today for stealing 62 checks and money orders sent by taxpayers to the IRS.

Shawnda E. Schmidt, 30, of Warsaw, Mo., **Brandon Sanders**, 26, of Raytown, Mo., and **Jeffrey Bookout**, 36, of Raymore, Mo., were charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City. **Schmidt** and **Sanders** are sister and brother.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Schmidt**, **Sanders** and **Bookout** participated in a conspiracy to steal nearly \$42,000 from March 10 to July 10, 2003. According to the indictment, **Schmidt** – who worked as a mail clerk for the IRS – stole taxpayer remittances, consisting of checks and money orders sent by taxpayers to the IRS in payment of federal income taxes. **Schmidt** allegedly altered the name of the payee on the stolen checks and money orders so that she and others could cash them. **Schmidt** cashed some of those stolen checks and money orders herself, the indictment alleges, and gave some of them to others, including **Sanders** and **Bookout**, to cash.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Schmidt** converted to her own use, and the use of others, approximately \$41,677 in checks and money orders that were the property of the IRS. That includes 24 stolen checks and money orders totaling \$12,012 that she allegedly cashed herself, those that were cashed by **Sanders** and **Bookout**, as well as four stolen checks and money orders totaling \$3,000 that were cashed by others who are not charged in the indictment.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Sanders** cashed 26 stolen checks and money orders totaling \$19,301.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Bookout** cashed eight stolen checks and money orders totaling \$7,363.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney J. Daniel Stewart. It was investigated by the Department of Treasury, Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow